

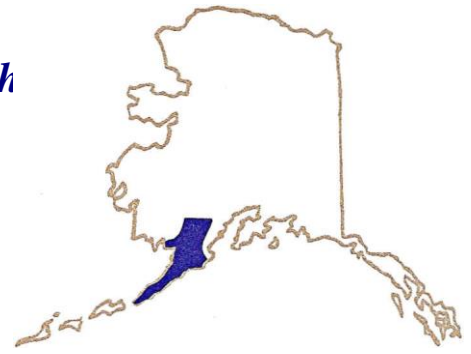


***Lake and Peninsula Borough***

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January 3, 2017

**Via Electronic Filing**

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 10-90, WT Docket No. 10-208, WC Docket No. 16-271

Dear Madame Secretary:

I am writing to provide comment on the Commission's Further Notice of Proposed rulemaking to address the elimination of duplicative funding where more than one competitive eligible telecommunications carrier is receiving high-cost support for the provision of 4G LTE wireless voice and broadband services in Alaska.

Should the commission curtail duplicative support, it should reallocate monies to new, previously unfunded facilities, linking the state's off-road communities to urban Alaska with adequate, affordable, competitive high-speed broadband capability, via a middle-mile network. Rural Alaskans should be entitled to internet access similar in type and price as other Alaskans and Americans. This does not require wasteful spending on duplicative facilities, and helps meet the Commission's Universal Service goals of promoting the availability of quality services at just, reasonable and affordable rates for all consumers and increasing nationwide access to advanced telecommunications services.

As we previously wrote to Alaska lawmakers, we need to be assured that broadband service is provided at adequate speed and quality, and that there is sufficient capacity, and that it is available at an affordable price, so that we may receive services similar to those available in urban markets both today and tomorrow. We want to make sure we have competitive offerings, because competition brings lower prices and better service.

It is difficult for those who have no experience of the "Bush" to appreciate what a boon to government, education, and commerce that internet has made. But just as we pay \$12 for a gallon of milk, we pay a similar premium for broadband with the added difficulty of restrictions on bandwidth usage. We watch as the rest of the country leverages technology to move their organizations agendas forward and increase efficiencies, while we, because of the lack of infrastructure, feel left behind.



## *Lake and Peninsula Borough*



In absence of support to narrow the Alaska middle-mile gap, our rural health care clinics, schools, libraries, community centers, government offices, and local businesses and residents will remain unserved by modern, high-speed networks and our local community will lag behind the rest of the state and the nation.

We ask that you consider reallocating monies spent on duplicative facilities, to a non-duplicative, statewide middle-mile network, for the benefit of all Alaskans, delivering measureable improvements to the quality, reliability, capacity, and price of services available in remote Alaska.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Susan Edwards".

Susan Edwards  
Finance Officer  
Lake and Peninsula Borough  
King Salmon, AK 99613